

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/000725

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B63C9/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B63C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 318 097 A (GORDON PETER CRONIN) 15 April 1998 (1998-04-15) cited in the application abstract; figures page 16, line 2-12 page 17, line 22 -page 18, line 9	1-4, 14, 15
X	US 5 468 167 A (GIVENS JAMES A) 21 November 1995 (1995-11-21) column 7, line 66 -column 8, line 4; figure 2	1-3
A	US 5 342 230 A (LOUIS OLIVIER) 30 August 1994 (1994-08-30) abstract; figures	1

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 May 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/06/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Nicol, Y

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 3 268 925 A (DUARRY SERRA JUAN) 30 August 1966 (1966-08-30) column 3, line 8-31; figures -----</p>	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/000725

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 2318097	A	15-04-1998	AU 6624396 A WO 9705014 A1	26-02-1997 13-02-1997
US 5468167	A	21-11-1995	NONE	
US 5342230	A	30-08-1994	FR 2666061 A1 AU 652957 B2 AU 8405091 A CA 2090002 A1 DE 69102705 D1 DE 69102705 T2 DK 544780 T3 EP 0544780 A1 ES 2059149 T3 WO 9203333 A1 JP 3068849 B2 JP 6503770 T KR 137226 B1 NO 930612 A	28-02-1992 15-09-1994 17-03-1992 25-02-1992 04-08-1994 19-01-1995 14-11-1994 09-06-1993 01-11-1994 05-03-1992 24-07-2000 28-04-1994 27-04-1998 22-02-1993
US 3268925	A	30-08-1966	BE 655484 A DE 1269915 B DK 111661 B GB 1069119 A NL 6500400 A SE 303949 B	01-03-1965 06-06-1968 23-09-1968 17-05-1967 16-07-1965 09-09-1968

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2/W32677WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/GB2004/000725	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 24 February 2004 (24.02.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 11 June 2003 (11.06.2003)]
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC 7 B63C 9/04		
Applicant SURVITEC GROUP LIMITED		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 *bis*.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	Date of issuance of this report 13 December 2005 (13.12.2005) Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Dorothee Mülhausen</div> Telephone No. +41 22 338 87 40
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

REC'D 11 JUN 2004

PCT (WIPO) PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000725

International filing date (day/month/year)
24.02.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
11.06.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
B63C9/04

Applicant
SURVITEC GROUP LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000725

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000725

Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not been furnished:

☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).

☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims

No: Claims 1-4,13-15

Inventive step (IS)

Yes: Claims

5-12

No: Claims

Industrial applicability (IA)

Yes: Claims

1-16

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: GB-A-2 318 097 (GORDON PETER CRONIN) 15 April 1998 (1998-04-15)

D2: US-A-5 468 167 (GIVENS JAMES A) 21 November 1995 (1995-11-21)

1. Novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability (POINT V)

1.1 Claims 1 and 16

1.1.1 The subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 (see the relevant passages cited in the search report) is considered to be the closest prior art. It reveals:

a liferaft system comprising a container containing an inflatable liferaft (9) in a hermetically sealed first bag (2) and an emergency pack (16) outside the first bag (see embodiment of figure 9, description page 16, lines 10-12) and connected to the liferaft (9). It is considered that this pack is connected to the liferaft because it is connected to the bag (2) which is connected to the liferaft. Moreover it can also be considered that the bag and emergency pack are parts of the liferaft and therefore the wording "the pack is connected to the liferaft" is obvious.

In D1 the container is operable to allow deployment of the liferaft and includes a closable aperture through which the emergency pack can be removed. This aperture is not showed but in order to put elements in a pack, it is obvious that the pack must have an closable aperture.

Therefore D1 describes all the technical features of the subject matter of claim 1. The attention of the applicant is drawn to the point that the document D2 is also novelty destroying for this claim (see indications in the search report).

1.1.2 The subject matter of claim 16 seems to involve an inventive step in the meaning of Article 33(3) PCT. In D1 there is no hatch in the container and all the container must be open in order to replace the emergency pack. The other documents mentioned in the search report do not show this advantage.

1.2 Dependent claims

Dependent claims 2-4, 14-15 do not appear to contain any additional features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step (see indications of the search report). Dependent claims 5-12 seem to involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

2. Clarity (POINT VIII)

2.1 In claim 4, the applicant refers to said "hatch" although this element is not defined. A wording like said "closable aperture" would be clear.

2.2 Claim 7 refers to claim 4 or claim 5. It should refer to claim 5 or claim 6 because the hatch is not defined in claim 4 but in claim 5.

2.3 "The *first* bag " mentioned in claim 16 is not clear (Article 6 PCT) and it should be replaced by "the hermetically sealed bag (23)".

3. Certain defects in the form or content of the application (POINT VII)

Independent claims 1 and 16 are not in the **two-part form** in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (document D1) being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).